

Annual Conference Shepherding Team

Back to the Future 
2019 Northern Illinois Annual Conference



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Journey Here...

Task Force introduces new Mission, Vision and Values statement to AC and a Organizational Task Force is developed

ACST develops strategic goals & prioritizes top 3 critical goals

2015

2016

2017

2018

Mar 2019

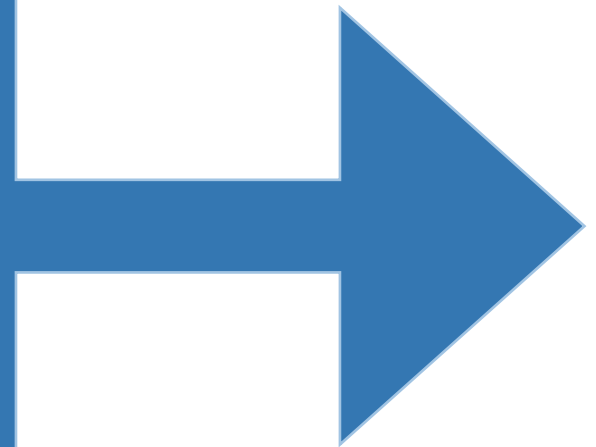
600 members take Landscape Survey; Task Force is formed

ACST & District Shepherding Teams formed with charge to develop a strategic plan

ACST, District Shepherding Teams, and DSs affirm goals and next steps

Landscape Process Priorities

- Equip leaders and churches
- Help struggling churches
- Re-think how to be vital churches
- Cultivate trust



Our Journey Here...

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NIC Strategic Goals Development

Long-
Term

- 23 goals identified across many strategic areas for development

5- Year

- 15 goals identified for continued development in five areas

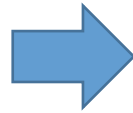
2-Year

- **3 goals prioritized as critical to launch immediately**

Goals Statements

Goal 1:

**To Grow and Reach
New Disciples
of Jesus Christ**



- By encouraging individuals in the life long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God;
- By supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries; and
- By sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus

Goals Statements

Goal 2:

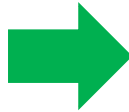
**To Live Out the
Conviction that
Racism is
Incompatible with
Christian Teaching**



- **By encouraging individuals to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing, and growth;**
- **By challenging the structures, practices and policies of the NIC and instituting necessary changes to ensure equity; and**
- **By educating and equipping congregations, districts and the NIC to be prophetic leaders pursuing equity in society.**

Goal 3:

**To Increase the
Number of Highly
Vital Congregations**



- **By actively and intentionally practicing stewardship of the NIC's ministry resources;**
- **By conducting a comprehensive assessment of ministry resources and the future potential of every congregation; and**
- **By creating and executing a plan with each congregation in collaboration with the district.**

Presenters

Goal 1: **Mark Manzi**, Conference Co-Lay
Leader, Member Carol Stream: St. Andrew

Goal 2: **Rev. Brittany Isaac**, Chicago
Northwestern District Superintendent

Goal 3: **Rev. Luis F. Reyes**, Aurora District
Shepherding Team Co-Chair

Presenter: Mark Manzi

Conference Co-Lay Leader

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

- By encouraging individuals in a life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God;
- By supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries; and
- By sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus.

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

Core mission of the United Methodist Church:
**“To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for
the Transformation of the World.”**

Top priorities from our Landscape process:

- To equip leaders to help members grow as disciples
- To equip leaders with strategies to reach new members
- To equip churches to be more effective in community outreach

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

- As **individuals**, we each must first strengthen our own spiritual knowledge and formation
- As **members of local churches**, we must participate in developing a stronger culture of discipleship
- As **community members**, we can then reach beyond our walls to those who need to hear the Good News

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

How are disciples formed?



Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

In partnership with you, the Annual Conference will:

- Provide training in discipleship. *
- Lift up best practices and adaptive ideas to be shared across the connection.

** See flier on your table re: Discipleship training.*

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

Which is the greater challenge?

Encouraging others
to develop and
strengthen their
personal relationship
with God

VS.

Sharing the Good
News with people
who don't know
Jesus

*Does your church know what a disciple is
and how to reach new disciples?*

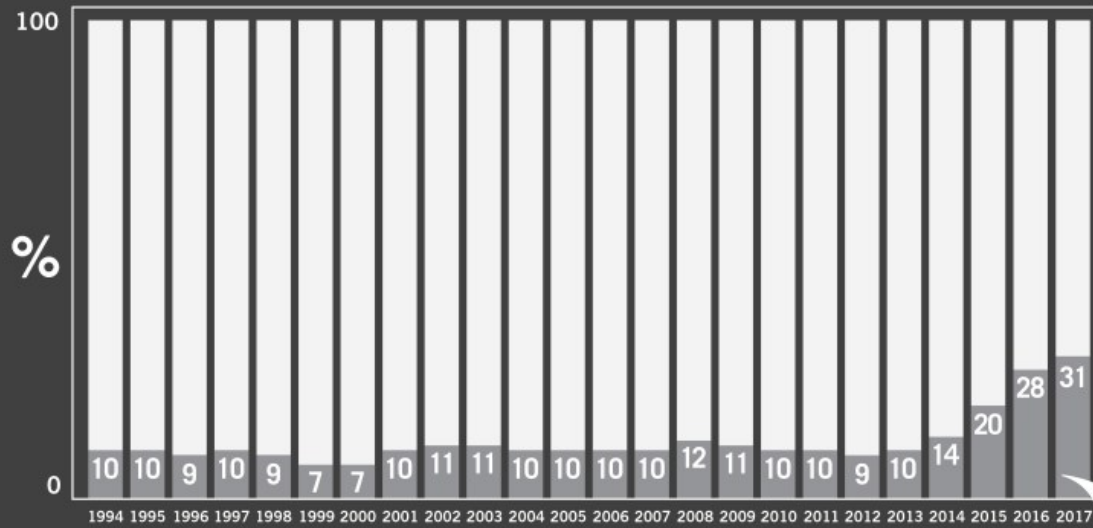
Presenter: Brittany Isaac

Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent

Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

- By encouraging individuals to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing, and growth;
- By challenging the structures, practices and policies of the NIC and instituting necessary changes to ensure equity; and
- By educating and equipping congregations, districts and the NIC to be prophetic leaders pursuing equity in society.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY AND/OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR & NATIVE PEOPLE



37% OF THE US POPULATION
ARE **PEOPLE OF COLOR**

13% OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE PAST 24 YEARS
CONTAIN **MULTICULTURAL CONTENT**

DID YOU KNOW?

BLACK, LATINO, AND NATIVE AUTHORS COMBINED
WROTE **ONLY 7%** OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S
BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2017.

7%
276 of 3700



Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

Our salvation journey is a life long process
with Christ for ***freedom, authenticity, and
wholeness...***

Not just our own or a few, but for ALL people

Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

"Anti-racism is the **active process** of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably."

NAC International Perspectives: Women and Global Solidarity

Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

In partnership with you the Annual Conference will:

- Survey its own policies and practices and remedy deficiencies;
- Provide levels of training for individuals and congregations as appropriate.

Presenter: Luis F. Reyes

Aurora District Shepherding Team Co-Chair

Goal 3: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

- By actively and intentionally practicing stewardship of the NIC's ministry resources;
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- By creating and executing a plan with each congregation in collaboration with the district.

Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

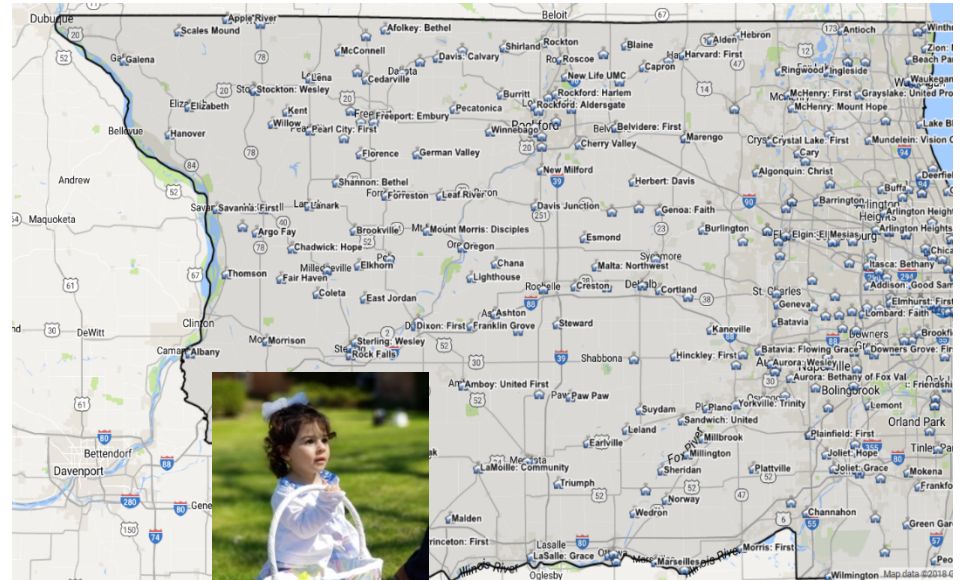
- For long-term sustainability, we must have both spiritual vitality and organizational resources
- Legacy for future generations on our theology and ministry
- Define who we are as people of grace and social holiness
- Strengthen our conference to have a voice beyond

Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

Why stay here?

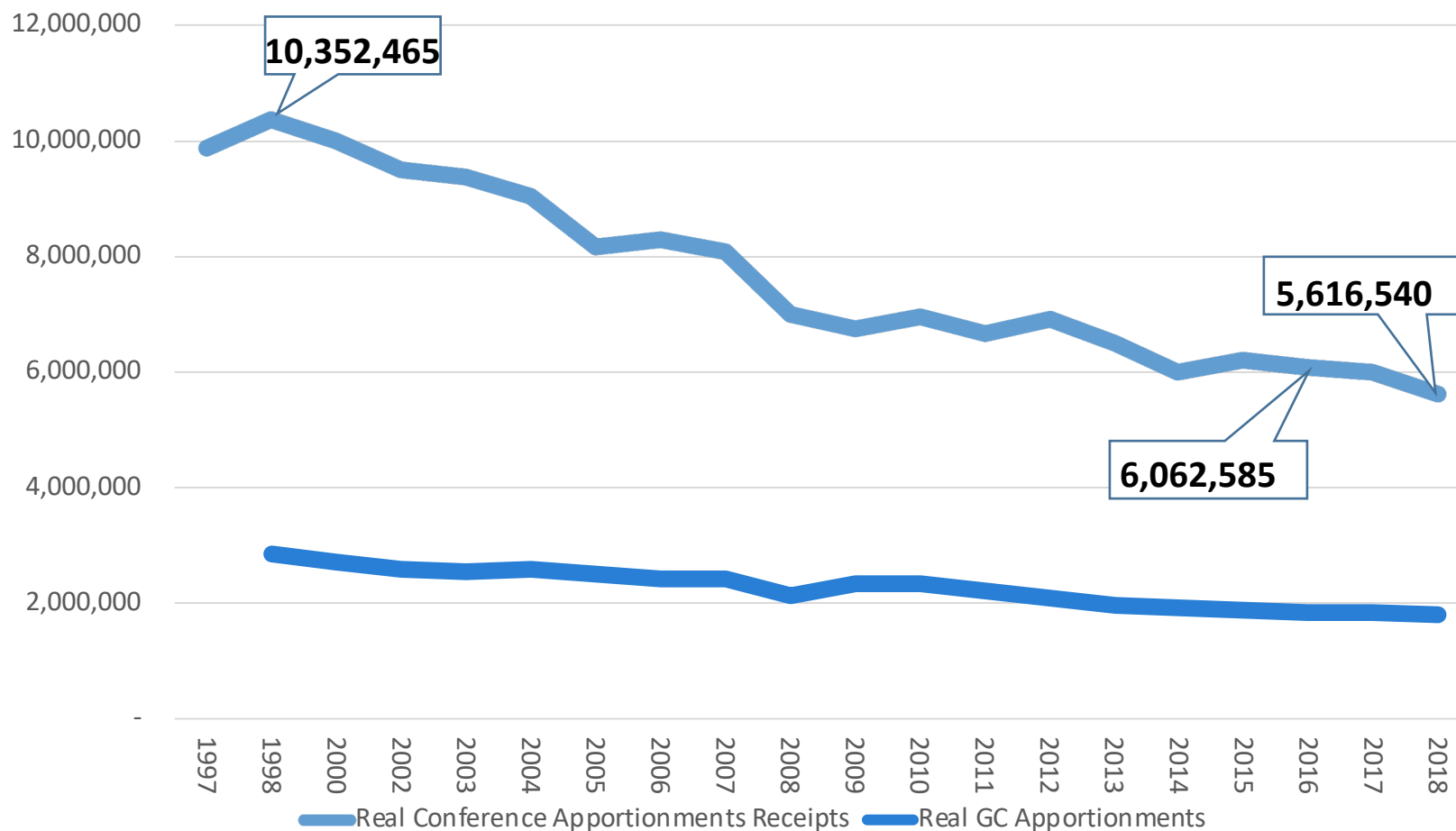


VS



Looking to the past. . . or the future

Real Apportionment Receipts



Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

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Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

Power of our Connectional Ministry

- Collective, coordinated decision-making and actions
- Strengthen our Conference voice and choice
- Centered on what we can control and impact

This is the NOW



Goal 3: To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

The work is yours and you need to do the work. In partnership with you, the Annual Conference will:

- Provide standardized data analysis.
- Enable each local church, in collaboration with its DS, to evaluate itself and create a plan for its future potential.
- Foster an environment of support in which all congregations will be able to move forward in ministry and fellowship together although not necessarily in their existing church structures.



**Goal 1:
To Grow and Reach
New Disciples of Jesus
Christ**

**Goal 2:
To Live Out the
Conviction that Racism
is Incompatible with
Christian Teaching**

**Goal 3:
To increase the
Number of Highly Vital
Congregations**

What's Next?

- Recruit Teams to drive each of the 3 strategic goals
- Conduct Statistical Analyses (Summer 2019)
- Define Implementation Structures, Participants, and Accountabilities
- Communicate and coordinate plans across the Conference

What's Next?

- Key people who will drive these critical effort:
ACST, DST, DSs, Goal Teams
- Every church/district must work TOGETHER to make these 3 goals top priorities

ACST Members

Co-Chairs:

Liz Gracie, Annual Conference Shepherding Team

Rev. Myron McCoy, Annual Conference Shepherding Team

District Co-Chair Representatives:

Rev. Luis Reyes, Aurora District

Donna Sagami, District Lay Leader, Northwestern District

TBD, Southern District

Karen Bonnell, District Lay Leader, DeKalb District

Kathy Dickerson, District Lay Leader, Elgin District

Rev. Jarrod Severing, Rockford District

ACST Members (continued)

Conference Areas:

Rev. Danita Anderson, Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair

Rev. Rob Hamilton, Annual Conference Committee on Finance, Chair

Nancy Pendergrass, Annual Conference Nominations Committee, Chair

Rev. Alka Lyall, Annual Conference Committee, Chair

Mark Manzi, Annual Conference, Co-Lay Leader

Rev. Harry Nicol, Annual Conference Board of Trustees, President

Meg Park, Program Ministries – Age Level Ministries

Rev. Mary Rawlinson, Program Ministries - Justice and Mercy Ministries

Rev. Laura Wilson, Program Ministries – Cong. Development & Redevelopment

Rev. Hyu Jae Lee, Fellowship of Asian Americans, Chair

Rev. Dennis Oglesby, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Chair

“I Have Decided. . .”